



## Object of the Newsletter

*To promote the appreciation of fine Scotch Whisky (and the drinking of it) amongst my friends and to spread the word on the joys of single malt. By the way, I do not profess to be an expert, I am merely expressing an opinion on the whiskies I am tasting. “Slange.”*

This issue I look at Bruichladdich (pronounced “Brook Laddy”) 21 year old, which I tasted in April at this years Las Vegas Celtic Games. I stopped at the Clan Cochrane tent as I had been based at HMS Cochrane in Scotland during my time in the Royal Navy and spoke with Keith and Mike, for what turned out to be a hour well spent. They showed me what highland hospitality is all about, with engaging conversation and a very fine Bruichladdich 21. I returned later that afternoon and spent another hour with them cracking jokes and sampling their Johnny Walker Gold (more about that in a future issue). What did I think of this whisky.....OH YES, this ones for me, what a fine dram. I will definitely be buying this in the future, thank you Mike, Keith and Clan Cochrane.

### Tasting Notes;

**Nose** - Hint of the sea, faint smoke, berries

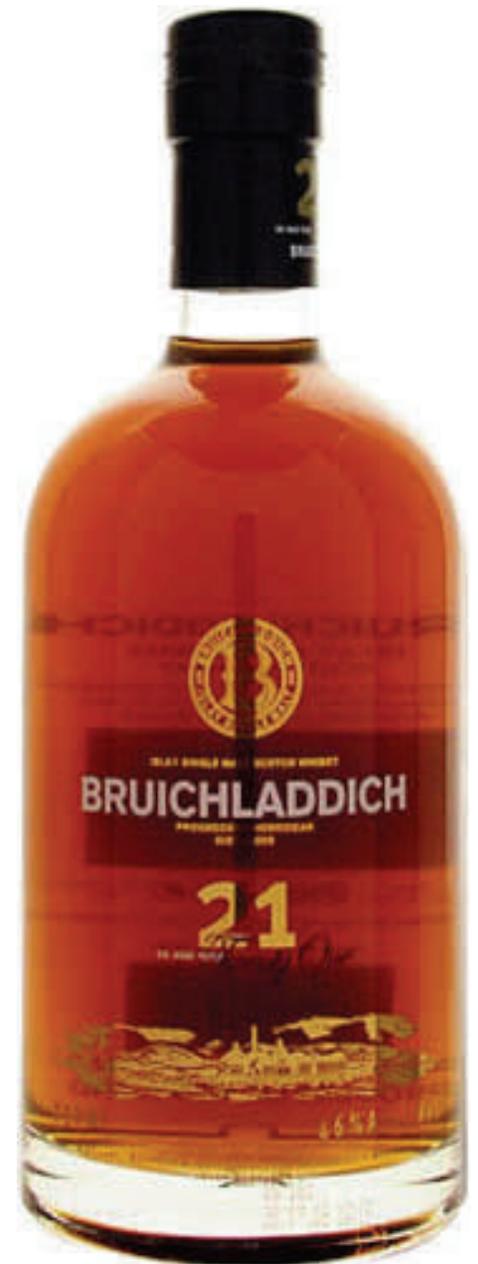
**Palate** - Sweet honey, sea salt, some spice

**Finish** - Sherry, salty/apples, faint smoke

*“You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.”*

*If you have a personal favorite and you would like it to feature in future “Slange” newsletters, please let me know. I can be contacted at my website <http://www.scot-talks.com>*

*“Slainte Mhath”  
Paul Bissett*





## A wee bit of History

### **Bruichladdich Distillery**

Situated on the Rhinns (peninsula) of Islay (pronounced Isla), and is one of eight distilleries on the island, and until the recent opening of Kilchoman, was the only independent distillery.

Bruichladdich, pronounced 'Brook-Laddie' means 'raised beach' in Gaelic, referring to the location of the distillery on Isle of Islay, off Scotland's west coast. It was built in 1881 by William Harvey and his brothers on a site facing the sea.

The distillery saw several changes of ownership and stopped production in 1994. It went through four owners and was finally acquired in 2000 by a small group of private investors led by Mark Reynier. It recommenced distillation in 2001 after extensive renovation. Despite changes the traditional 19th Century manual equipment is used for malting and distilling with the addition of a state of the art bottling plant.

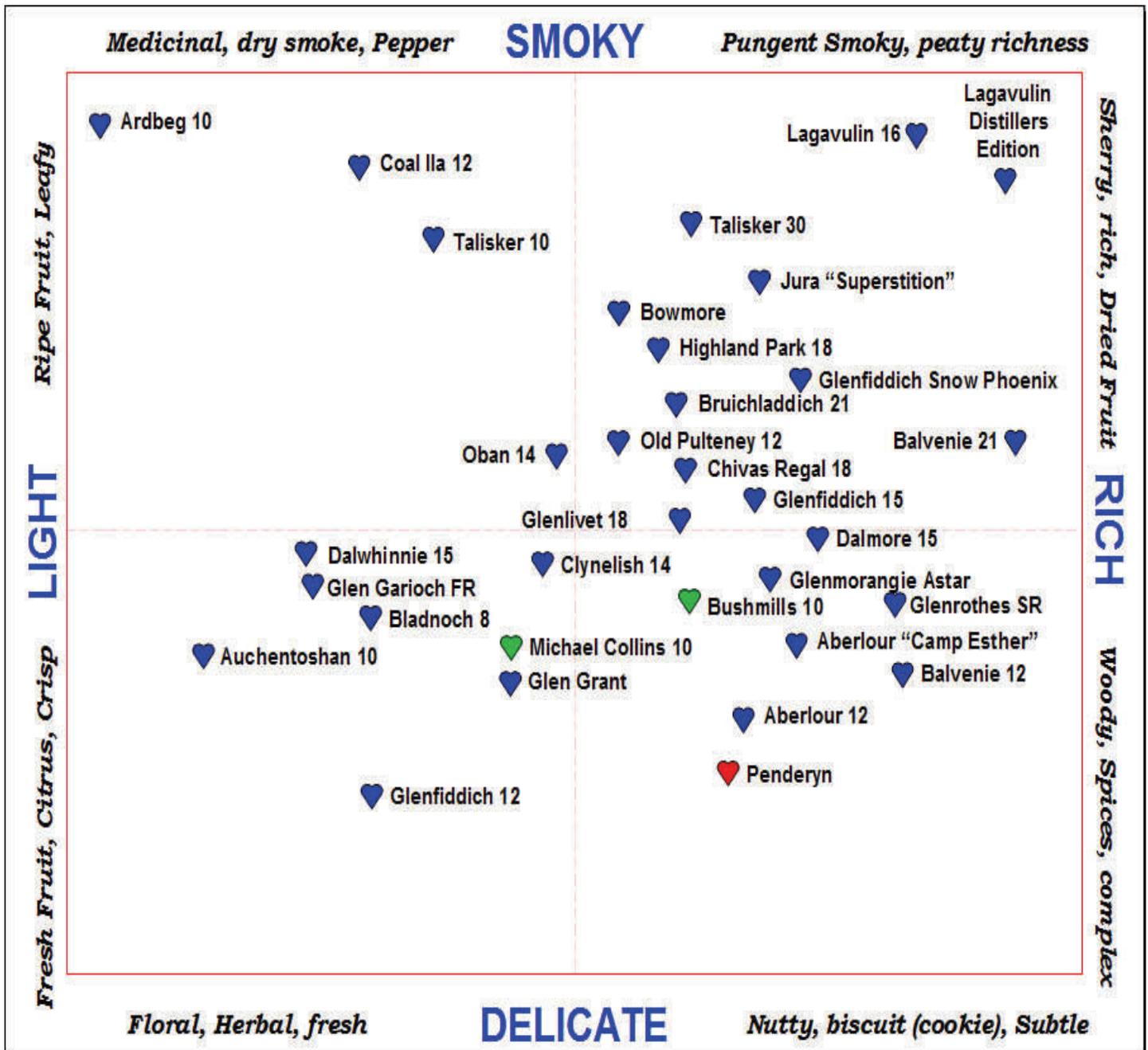
The barley used is locally grown on Islay and the water from local burns has filtered through the oldest rocks in the whisky world. Today 500,000 liters are distilled annually at Bruichladdich of different varieties and peating levels. It is bottled in Islay's only bottling hall and is non-chill filtered. It was voted 'Distillery of the Year' by "Malt Advocate" magazine (now "Whisky advocate") in 2001 and 2003. James McEwan their distiller has been voted Distiller of the Year on three occasions and the 1970 Vintage Bruichladdich was voted Malt of the Year.

The Bruichladdich Distillery constantly innovates and releases new whiskies. Their Octomore is considered to be the world's peatiest Scotch whisky and Trestarig, pronounced "trace-arak" has been created according to a 300 year old Hebridean recipe. It is a triple distilled spirit and the recipe may have its origins in 'Arak', the original Middle Eastern spirit distilled from wine.





Below is a simple guide to help you choose your single malt Whisky, and the flavor notes you should expect from it. Being Scottish I recommend you find a likely candidate and try it in a bar before buying the whole bottle. With each issue of the newsletter I will add in another Whisky to the flavor map. This Issue; **Bruichladdich 21 year old** For more information go to <http://www.bruichladdich.com>





## Clan Cochrane **Motto:** Virtute et labore (Latin: By valor and toil)

Tradition traces the Cochrane ancestry to a Viking warrior who settled in Renfrewshire (prior to the 12 century) and his descendants took their name from the lands of Cochrane south west of Glasgow. The Cochrane's rose to prominence during the reign of King James II (1437-60). Robert Cochrane, master mason and favorite of James III, was the reputed architect of the great hall of Stirling Castle, but his patronage availed him naught for he was hanged with others at Lauder Bridge in 1482 by a group of jealous nobles. The Cochrane family continued to support the House of Stewart and gained further holdings in Renfrewshire, obtaining a charter of confirmation from Mary Queen of Scots in 1556.

In the early 1600's William Cochrane lacking male heirs, and with his line in danger ensured that whoever married his daughter Elizabeth be bound to assume as their own the Cochrane name and coat of arms. Elizabeth married Alexander Blair of Blair in Ayrshire who, on the death of his father-in-law, by Great Seal charter, assumed the name and arms of Cochrane. Alexander acquired the Ayrshire lands of Auchencruch in 1618, and Cowdoun in 1622, and the seven sons of his marriage began in earnest the enviable catalogue of military service which has placed the Cochrane's apart. These sons took part in the Civil Wars, and William, the 2nd son, was created Lord Cochrane of Dundonald by Charles I, and in 1669, made Earl of Dundonald by Charles II. The rule of the later Stuarts became abhorrent to the Cochrane's and many became supporters of the Covenanters, later lending support to King William of Orange.

The 10th Earl (Thomas Cochrane) pursued a naval career during the Napoleonic Wars and he became famous for his ability to outthink, outmaneuver and outfight the enemy. Later, as MP for Westminster, he became a victim of party politics, and with his services largely unrecognized, in 1817 he accepted command of the Chilean Navy and assisted that country in gaining its freedom from Spain.

*In my opinion Thomas Cochrane is one of the most daring and successful naval commanders the world has ever seen. There have been a number of books written about him, the one I am currently reading is; Cochrane: The Life and Exploits of a Fighting Captain by Robert Harvey.*

